

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01219 071843 Z

41

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 SCEM-02 PM-09 L-03

NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 PC-04 FPC-01

TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CG-00 INT-08 RSR-01 INRE-00

OMB-01 /143 W

----- 009979

P R 071745 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3698

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

ATO WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1219

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG CS

SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CRISIS: COSTA RICA TO ADOPT DAY-  
LIGHT SAVINGS TIME MIDNIGHT APRIL 8

REFERENCE: SAN JOSE 1198 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MEETING APRIL 7 DECIDED  
THAT COSTA RICA SHOULD MOVE ITS CLOCKS ONE HOUR EARLIER  
AT MIDNIGHT SUNDAY APRIL 8, IN ORDER TO ADJUST DAILY  
SCHEDULES TO THE 7 A. M. TO 7 P. M. ELECTRICITY RATIONING.  
COUNCIL ALSO DIRECTED MINISTER OF LABOR TO PROMULGATE  
REGULATIONS GOVERNING LABORERS WORKING NIGHT SHIFTS IN  
THOSE INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT TOTALLY SUSPEND OPERATIONS.  
COUNCIL AGREED PRESIDENT FIGUERES WAS " PERSONALLY IN  
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01219 071843 Z

CHARGE OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE FROM USG"; BUT AS YET WE STILL HAVE HAD NO RPT NO FORMAL REQUEST FROM HIM FOR ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE WHATSOEVER. END SUMMARY.

1. FIGUERES' MINISTERS HELD A LONG MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 6 WITH THE MANAGERS OF AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS, LABOR LEADERS, TECHNICIANS AND OTHERS IN ORDER TO DISCUSS FULL IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT ELECTRICITY CRISIS. MINISTERS THEN MET TOGETHER IN AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SESSION ( AT WHICH PRESIDENT FIGUERES WAS NOTABLY ABSENT) PRESIDED OVER BY MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING: ( A) TO MOVE TO DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MIDNIGHT SUNDAY APRIL 8; ( B) TO MINIMIZE PRICE SPECULATION, THE GOCR WILL TRY TO IMPORT GAS STOVES AND KEROSENE AND DISTRIBUTE THEM THROUGH GOCR- OPERATED RETAIL OUTLETS; ( C) THE PRESIDENT IS " PERSONALLY CHARGED WITH" OBTAINING BOATS WITH GENERATORS FROM THE UNITED STATES; AND ( D) THE MINISTER OF LABOR WILL ISSUE REGULATIONS GOVERNING NIGHT SHIFTS IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

3. LABOR DECREE WAS ISSUED SAME DAY, AS WAS DECREE IMPLEMENTING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. LABOR DECREE STIPULATES THAT EMPLOYEES SHALL RECEIVE REGULAR PAY FOR FIRST SIX HOURS OF NIGHT WORK, AND EXTRA PAY FOR NEXT TWO, DURING WEEK OF APRIL 9-14. THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY SHALL RECEIVE REGULAR PAY FOR FIRST SEVERN HOURS, AND EXTRA PAY FOR ONE. EMPLOYERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO SHORTEN SHIFTS TO LESS THAN EIGHT HOURS, AND ARE AGAIN ENCOURAGED TO CLOSE DOWN AND PUT ALL EMPLOYEES ON VACATION, AT LEAST FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS.  
VAKY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** ENRG, CS  
**To:** ARA  
ATO WASHDC  
GUATEMALA  
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SECSTATE WASHDC

TEGUCIGALPA  
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